

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SS-15

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R 231025 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5873

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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DEPARTMENT FOR BASTEDO, SCI

TEL AVIV FOR POLLACK

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TSPA, GW, FR

SUBJECT: SPACELAB- AEROSAT: EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY

REF: A. STATE 119186, B. STATE 121499, C. PARIS 17270,

D. BONN 7595, E. 5746, F. BONN 2943

1. SUMMARY. FRG WAS " VERY PLEASED" WITH REF. A. US AIDE
MEMOIRE. HOWEVER, JUNE 21 MEETING OF ESRO SPACELAB INTERIM BOARD
PRODUCED ANOTHER EUROPEAN AIDE MEMOIRE WITH FOUR SUGGESTED
" RELATIVELY MINOR MODIFICATIONS" TO TEXT OF GOVERNMENTAL SPACELAB
AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED IN WASHINGTON EARLY IN WEEK OF
JUNE 25. FRENCH SCIENCE MINISTER CHARBONNEL, DURING FRENCH-
GERMAN SUMMIT MEETING IN BONN ON JUNE 22, USED CASE HISTORY OF US
INVOLVEMENT IN AEROSAT PROJECT AS EVIDENCE FOR HIS VIEW THAT
EUROPE CANNOT RPT NOT RELY ON US BUT MUST DEVELOP INDEPENDENT
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SPACE CAPABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO JUNE 21 MEETING OF ESRO SPACELAB INTERIM BOARD, FRG OFFICIALS VOLUNTEERED THEY WERE PLEASED WITH US JUNE 12 RESPONSE (REF A) TO EUROPEAN JUNE 5 AIDE MEMOIRE (REF B). HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY OFFICIAL, THEIR EUROPEAN PARTNERS WERE MORE CRITICAL DURING JUNE 21 MEETING AND PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL FOUR AMENDMENTS TO GOVERNMENTAL SPACELAB AGREEMENT. EUROPEAN SUGGESTIONS WILL BE PRESENTED IN ANOTHER AIDE MEMOIRE TO BE DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON EARLY IN WEEK OF JUNE 25, PROBABLY BY REPRESENTATIVE OF FRG EMBASSY.

3. EMBASSY OBTAINED COPY OF EUROPEAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON " PERSONAL" BASIS, WHICH SAME AS THAT CABLED IN PARIS 17270. WE CONCUR IN PARIS REQUEST THAT USG NOT RPT NOT REVEAL POSSESSION OF TEXT OF EUROPEAN AIDE MEMOIRE PRIOR TO ITS FORMAL PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON.

4. ON JUNE 22, FRENCH SCIENCE MINISTER CAHRBONNEL MET WITH HIS FRG COLLEAGUES AS PART OF A FRENCH- GERMAN SUMMIT MEETING WHICH INCLUDED JOINT MEETING OF TWO CABINETS. CHARBONNEL AND FRG TECHNOLOGY MINISTER EHMKE REVIEWED EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY ALONG LINES WE HAVE REPORTED BEFORE (SEE REFS D, E, F). SOME FRG OFFICIALS SENSED A SUBTLE CHANGE IN FRENCH ATTITUDES. CHARBONNEL WAS CRITICAL ABOUT MANY ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY BUT APPARENTLY NOT RPT NOT OPPOSED TO US- EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN POST- APOLLO PROGRAM. HE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON GERMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO L3 S LAUNCHER PROGRAM. CHARBONNEL REMAINS CLEARLY DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO PRESS FOR INCREASED EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE L3 S " EUROPEAN" LAUNCHER. HE REVIEWED HISTORY OF US INVOLVEMENT IN AEROSAT PROGRAM AS EVIDENCE THAT EUROPE COULD NOT RPT NOT RELY ON US. CONSEQUENTLY, EUROPE MUST AVOID DEPENDENT, JUNIOR POSITION AND DEVELOP INDEPENDENT LAUNCHING CAPABILITY. TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY OFFICIAL URGED SCINCE ATTACHE TO REPORT CHARBONNEL' S COMMENTS ON THIS POINT BECAUSE CONTINUED DELAY IN REACHING AEROSAT DECISION AND REPORTS OF DIMINISHING INTEREST ON PART OF US AIRLINES MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR FRG TO COUNTER THESE FRENCH ARGUMENTS. HILLENBRAND

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Drafter: n/a
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